

laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Sharad Pawar Committee**

6123. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations made by the Sharad Pawar Committee on Power which was set up in accordance with a resolution of National Development Council;

(b) whether these recommendations were endorsed by the Union Government;

(c) the advice, tendered by the Union Government to the State Governments and State Electricity Boards, if any;

(d) the names of State Governments/State Electricity Boards which have accepted/followed the recommendations of the aforesaid Committee and advice of the Union Government; and

(e) the measures being taken to persuade the State Governments and State Electricity Board, which have not so far followed the recommendations made by the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The recommendations of the Sharad Pawar Committee on Power Sector are presently under examination in the Planning Commission. The Report is to be placed before National Development Council by the Planning Commission after the implications are fully examined.

[Translation]

**Terrorists in J&K**

6124. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether, after the formation of the new Government in Jammu and Kashmir the terrorists have again become active;

(b) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the total number of innocent people killed in the State after the formation of democratic Government; and

(d) the comparative figures of violent incidents before and after the formation of the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) There has been a marked decrease in the overall level of violence after the

formation of an elected Government in J&K. However, efforts continue to be made by the terrorists and secessionist elements sponsored and supported from across the border, to keep up the violence through attacks on soft targets, indiscriminate use of explosive devices without regard to the lives of innocent civilians, efforts to enforce 'bandhs' and 'hartals', particularly when militants are killed, etc., in a bid to vitiate the atmosphere and to disrupt normal life and derail the political and democratic system in the State. The Government is fully seized of such designs and concerted and coordinated efforts are being made by all concerned to ensure that such activities are effectively contained.

(c) According to available information, 627 civilians were killed in terrorist activities during the period from 1 October 1996 to 15 April 1997.

(d) As against around 2700 incidents of terrorist violence during the six months period from 1st April 1996 to 30th September 1996, the number of incidents during the six months period from 1st October 1996 to 31st March 1997 was 1886.

**Recovery of Loan**

6125. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative position of recovery of loans from industrial sector and agricultural sector as on April 30, 1997;

(b) whether in comparison to Agricultural sector more amount of loan is being disbursed to industrial sector; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

**U.S. Stand on Kashmir**

[English]

6126. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item captioned "U.S. remarks on Kashmir dangerous" as reported in the Times of India dated March 7, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the statement made by the spokesman on White House in the U.S. are dangerous; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a)

Government are aware of the newsitem under reference. The White House Spokesman's remarks, reported in the newsitem, came in oral response to a question at a regular briefing to the press at the White House on March 5, 1997.

(b) and (c) Government immediately sought clarification from the US authorities. The Spokesman's office clarified that the use of the term "principality" to describe Kashmir was unintentional, in the course of a verbal response and that this did not signal any departure from the US Government's position.

Government of India has made it clear that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. This position is fully known to the US Government.

#### **Oil Refineries**

6127 DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to change the existing technology in oil refineries in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government had constituted Ganguly Committee to suggest suitable technology;

(c) if so, the date on which the said Committee had been constituted;

(d) the time by which this Committee had been asked to submit its report to the Government;

(e) whether the Government have received the Committee's report; and

(f) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) to (e) The Government had appointed a Committee on 5.1.1995 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Ganguly, to review the action plans of the refineries, recommend suitable methodology for integration of refineries with technical institutes and R&D centres, recommend strategies for development of specialised skills needed for refining operations etc. The Committee was to submit interim report by February 1995 and the final report by June 1995, and it has already submitted its report to the Government.

(f) The Committee in its recommendation has broadly covered areas of improving distillate yields and production of high valued products, energy conservation measures, thrust areas for R&D, management of human resources etc.

#### **Israel-Palestinian Situation**

6128. SHRI G.M. BANATWALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the Israel-Palestinian situation, especially relating to Israel settlement policy and the consequent threat to the peace process;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether the Government had issued any statement on the situation, if so, when and the contents of the statement;

(d) whether the Government have noted any move on the part of several Arab Countries for a trade boycott of Israel; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has expressed its deep concern at the Israel Government's approval for construction of settlements at Jabal Abu Ghneim (Har Homa) to the South of East Jerusalem. Government of India has urged all parties concerned to intensify their efforts for finding a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, as well as the interim agreement for allowing the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and all States of the region to co-exist peacefully within secure and internationally recognised boundaries.

(c) Government of India has issued a statement on this on March 5, 1997; a copy of the statement is attached.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has taken note of the resolution of the Foreign Ministers of the league of Arab States at a meeting in Cairo on 31.3.1997 recommending inter alia "the continuation of commitment of primary degree Arab boycott of Israel and the activation of such boycott"

#### **Statement**

Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi

#### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Israeli approval for settlements in East Jerusalem**

Government of India is deeply concerned at the recent Israeli Government's approval for construction of settlements at Jabal Abu Ghneim (Har Homa) to the south of East Jerusalem. India has consistently maintained that unilateral steps which are not in conformity with the agreements and understandings would hinder the peace process, and vitiate the atmosphere to build mutual confidence essential to progress the peace negotiations further.

We remain convinced of the need for purposeful negotiations on all issues in the final-status negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian sides. We once again urge all parties concerned to intensify their efforts for finding a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, as well as the interim agreements, for allowing the achievement of